

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of preventing rumpling of metallic components, comprising the application of a ceramic coating other than aluminum oxide having a thickness of less than 50 μm on a to a metallic component for preventing thermally influenced deformation in metallic components.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A metallic component for use under thermal and mechanical stress which leads to a risk of thermally influenced deformation, having a coating of ceramic material which covers its surface at least partially, The method of claim 1~~ characterized in that the thickness of the coating is up to 30 μm .

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The metallic component according to method of claim 2~~ 1, characterized in that the ~~coated~~ metallic component being coated has an oxidation protection coating to which the ceramic coating is applied ~~surface already has an oxide coating.~~

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The metallic component according to method of claim 2~~ 3, characterized in that the ~~coated surface consists of~~ oxidation protection coating is an aluminum-containing metallic oxidation protection coating.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The metallic component according to method of claim 2~~ 1, characterized in that the thickness of the ceramic coating is less than 20 μm .

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The metallic component according to method of claim 2~~ 1, characterized in that the ceramic coating consists of an oxidic ceramic material.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The metallic component according to method of~~ claim 2 1, characterized in that the thickness of the ceramic coating is at least 10 μm .

8. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a metallic component, ~~characterized in that its surface is provided with~~ comprises applying a thin ceramic coating having a thickness of up to 30 μm to said component.

9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that said coating is produced by electron beam physical vapor deposition (EB-PVD) or air plasma spraying (APS).

10. (Original) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that said coating is produced by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), electrophoresis followed by microwave sintering, or dip coating with ceramic precursors followed by sintering.

11. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said metallic component is a rotor or stator.

12. (New) The process of claim 8 wherein said metallic component is a rotor or stator.

13. (New) The process of claim 8 wherein said ceramic coating is free of aluminum oxide.

14. (New) A method of treating a metallic component such as a rotor or stator against the effects of rumpling, comprising the steps of applying an oxidation protection coating directly to the metallic component and thereafter apply a ceramic coating having a thickness of less than 50 μm to said oxidation protection coating.

15. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said coating is essentially free of aluminum oxide